4/12/70

Mr. Hugh Sidey
LIFE Magazine
1120 Connecticut Ave., NW
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Sidey,

Having just heard of the LIFE demand for Mitchell's resignation on the WTTG 10 p.m. news, I write, knowing nothing else of LIFE's position, to congratulate you, especially if you are responsible for this or wrote the piece. It is an important national service.

And entirely inadequate.

If I may paraphrase, "Alas, poor LIFE; it knows him not".

With "him" I refer not th Mitchell as a person but to a personification. You came closer in a recent TV panel show where, properly referring to moral and ethical considerations, you talked of "this crew". The fact is that getting rid of Mitchell, no matter how important to the national interest and genuine national security this would be, would not correct the current evil. Beginning with the man who cannot be gotten rid of for some years (and not then if his "crew" succeeds) they are all cut from the same pattern. Rather than deceiving the President, Mitchell does his bidding.

However, what can be addressed is the rest of the "crew", and it is about this that I phoned you before filing a suit against Mitchell, about which I also wrote you. These are men dedicated in their persuasion to what to them may be principle but is really evil. They life with contempt for the law they administer, ignore it as a way of life, improvise around it when it is uncongenial to their preconceptions, believs and desires, and are without concern or shame when they lie, which they do when forced to abandon silence. These are things I had to document, over their signatures, before filing suit. (And I'll be filing more such suits as soon as I can overcome their deviousness which denies me the requirement of the law, that I exhaust administrative remedies.) If Mitchell absolutely refuses to answer letters as the law requires of him, Kleindiesnt and Kolapp lie about it. You should see their letters, hear their shameless words. I can make it possible.

It is not simply a matter of Mitchell, a single man. Nor is it only that he selected poor men for the President to nominate. He also runs the Department of Justice, which also investigated these candidates. Is it so incompetent? Or did he filter the FBI investigation for the press and President? If the latter, how about the Hoover silence?

If this new LIFE statement is like a single swipe at Hydra, it is still an important, if halting, first step. As a next one, busy as you are, please interest yourself in what I am doing, with no obligation other than preserving my confidence.

Sincerely,
Harold Weisberg